



Duncan Hunter
U.S. House of Representatives
50th District, California

September 14, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

I am writing in regards to the State Department's Worldwide Aviation Support Services (WASS) contract and request your personal review of the flight safety qualifications of bidders in the procurement. My colleagues and I, as well as other U.S. government leaders, are frequent flyers on these aircraft when visiting with our military and diplomats overseas. We must have confidence that any contractor selected can provide the safe and secure aviation transport this vital mission requires.

I am especially interested in your assurance that any WASS contractor has a proven track record of safely performing flight operations in Afghanistan. I raise the issue because of recent media reports stating that a potential WASS awardee, performing on a separate Department of Defense (DoD) aviation contract in Afghanistan, has been indefinitely banned by DoD from operating at some airfields inside Afghanistan because of repeated flight safety violations and that allowing the vendor to continue "would increase the risk to harm to soldiers and the mission."

These are concerning statements, especially when considering the media's source is public court filings from the Department of Justice, on behalf of DoD, made on September 7, 2017, in a U.S. Court of Federal claims case related to the DoD aviation contract in question.

Congress must have confidence that the State Department's WASS solicitation is conducted with a paramount focus on safety. To alleviate these concerns, please provide a response to the following:

- A reply to the flight safety red flags raised by the Department of Justice filings, copies of flight safety records for each bidder, to include number of crashes and related fatalities. A statement declaring that any potential WASS awardee is not under investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) or any other federal aviation regulatory agency related to flight safety violations.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress